

Remarks

The applicants greatly appreciate the Examiner's willingness to consider a narrowly focused Amendment after Final Rejection that is specifically designed to render the entire application allowable. To advance prosecution, only claim amendments which do not raise new issues or present a need for further consideration have been entered. Thus, rejected claims 1 and 6-9 have been cancelled; allowed or allowable claims 20, 21, 23-25, and 27 are not amended; rejected claim 10 has been amended by striking only a single word directed at the heart of the pending rejection under 35 USC §112 (the only basis for rejection of the claim); rejected claim 22 has been similarly amended, with only five additional words directed to the same specific issue added; and claim 26 is amended in three locations with the same set of four words directed to the specific point considered by the Examiner in rejecting that claim.

Claims 10 and 22 are amended by striking "entirely" as a modifier to "within the recessed seat" and thereby avoid the issue of whether the specification and Figure 7a support the claim prior to the amendment. There is no doubt (and no contrary argument by the Examiner) that the application supports a seal "within the recessed seat" and therefore the rejection of each claim under 35 USC §112 should be withdrawn. As noted above, this renders claim 10 allowable.

Claims 22 and 26 were further rejected under 35 USC §102 under Fort. Claim 22 now also recites that the seal does not extend into the aperture, whereas Fort's seal clearly does so. As for claim 26, the entire basis of the Examiner's rejection relied upon interpreting "aperture" as the opening centered on the axis of the flow passage and radially within the contact surface of seal 56, *i.e.*, a location other than within the first poppet. The claim amendment unambiguously locates the aperture and therefore Fort does not anticipate or render obvious the amended claim.

Conclusion

Please enter the amendments above and allow the application in its entirety. If telephonic approval of an Examiner's Amendment is in order, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,



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